

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of June 10, 2005. Claim 18 is amended as shown. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged the applicants' claim to foreign priority but noted that a certified copy of the priority document has not yet been filed. The certified copy of the priority document is being filed herewith, thereby perfecting the applicants' claim to foreign priority.

The Examiner further requested that Figure 1 be designated by a --Prior Art-- legend. A replacement sheet having a revised Figure 1 in accordance with the Examiner's request is also being filed herewith.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 13-17 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims. The applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-12 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the applicants' admitted prior art (APA) Figure 1 and Nystrom (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0190810). For the reasons set forth below, the applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, and requests that all pending claims be allowed.

A disclosed embodiment will now be discussed in comparison to the applied references. Of course, the discussion of the disclosed embodiment, and the discussion of the differences between the disclosed embodiment and subject matter described in the applied references, do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims. Instead, such discussed differences are intended to merely help the Examiner appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

According to one embodiment, a circuit is provided for correcting the offset of an amplification and filtering chain having a gain and cut-off frequency that depends on the value of at least one capacitor. In an embodiment, the circuit includes elements to, during a setting phase,

reduce the value of the capacitor with respect to the capacitor's normal operating value. *See, e.g.,* the Abstract of the present application.

Nystrom and the applicants' APA do not disclose, teach, or suggest these features, whether singly or in combination. For example, the switches S in Figures 1, 3 and 4 of Nystrom are NOT used to change the capacitance of the low-pass filter during a setting phase. Rather, the capacitance values in the filter of Nystrom are changed in order to compensate for variations in the semiconductor manufacturing process, and to compensate for deviations of the RC-product over time as a consequence of temperature variations. *See, e.g.,* paragraph [0022] of Nystrom.

Moreover, Nystrom does NOT disclose, teach, or suggest use of the filters of Figures 1, 2, and 4 for correcting an offset. Rather, Nystrom simply provides a technique to alter an analog filter's filtering characteristics in order to compensate for process variations. *See, e.g.,* paragraphs [0007] and [0008] of Nystrom.

As another consideration, Nystrom does not disclose, teach, or suggest a reduction of a capacitance value during a setting phase. While Nystrom does disclose a modification of the capacitance, this modification does not involve a reduction of the capacitance of a low-pass filter during the setting phase, which provides the advantage that the setup time can be reduced and therefore, offset correction can be performed more accurately.

Independent claim 1 currently recites a "means for, during the setting phase, reducing the value of said at least one capacitor with respect to its normal operating value." As explained above, this feature is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by any of the cited references. For example, neither the applicants' APA nor Nystrom disclose reduction of the capacitance value during the setting phase. This feature is completely missing from the applicants' APA, and Nystrom simply changes the capacitances in order to compensate for variations in the semiconductor manufacturing process, and to compensate for deviations of the RC-product over time as a consequence of temperature variations. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 further recites a circuit for correcting an offset of an amplification and low-pass filtering chain. Such a feature is nowhere to be found in Nystrom and in the applicants' APA. Accordingly, claim 1 is further allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 5 is directed towards a method for correcting an offset, and recites reducing the value of the capacitor with respect to its normal operating value to increase the cut-off frequency. Dependent claim 6 further recites that the reduction of the capacitor value is performed during a setting phase. As explained above, these features are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references, whether singly or in combination. For example, Nystrom makes no mention of correcting an offset and reducing a capacitor value during a setting phase. Accordingly, these claims are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 9 is directed towards an apparatus to correct an offset, and recites a setting element to reduce a value of a capacitor during a setting phase. These features are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by any of the cited references, and therefore, claim 9 is allowable.

Independent claim 18 is directed towards a circuit to correct an offset, and recites a setting element to reduce a value of a capacitor, during a setting phase, with respect to its normal operating value to increase the cut-off frequency. Because these features are not found in or suggested by the cited references, whether singly or in combination, claim 18 is allowable.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

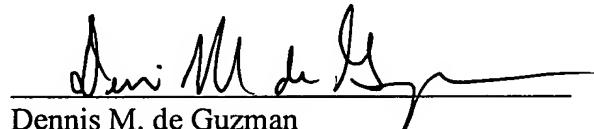
If the applicants' attorney Dennis M. de Guzman has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. de Guzman at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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DMD:wt

Enclosure:

Postcard
2 Sheets of Replacement Drawings (Figures. 1-5)
Extension of Time

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 1. These sheets, which include Figure 1, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)